

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION-----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

October 1, 2001

12:15 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, October 1, 2001, at 12:15 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.

PRESENT: Council Members C. Nelson Harris (arrived late), W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William White, Sr., Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; James D. Grisso, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

CITY ATTORNEY-COUNCIL: A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in Closed Session to consult with legal counsel on a matter of probable litigation, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.7, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Hudson moved that Council concur in the request of the City Attorney to convene in Closed Session to consult with legal counsel on a matter of probable litigation, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.7, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Harris entered the meeting during the first Closed Session.)

MUNICIPAL AUDITOR-COUNCIL: A communication from Council Member C. Nelson Harris, Chair, City Council's Personnel Committee, requesting that Council convene in Closed Session to discuss appointment of a new Municipal Auditor, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Carder moved that Council concur in the request of Council Member Harris to convene in Closed Session to discuss appointment of a new Municipal Auditor, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Harris entered the meeting during the first Closed Session.)

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR-COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor Ralph K. Smith requesting that Council convene in Closed Session to discuss a special award, i.e.: 2001 Citizen of the Year, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.10, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Hudson moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in Closed Session to discuss a special award, i.e.: 2001 Citizen of the Year, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.10, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Harris entered the meeting during the first Closed Session.)

At 12:25 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess for the first Closed

Session as requested by the City Attorney.

At 12:40 p.m., the meeting reconvened in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Room 159, for two briefings; i. e.: the 800 MHz Trunking System Intergovernmental Agreement and a Housing Update.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT-POLICE DEPARTMENT-EQUIPMENT:
George C. Snead, Jr., Assistant City Manager for Operations, introduced a briefing on the 800 MHz Regional Radio Trunk system. As background information, he advised that in 1995-96, Roanoke City and Roanoke County engaged in a review of four regional issues, one of which was a regional radio communications system. At that point, he stated that Roanoke County had a 800 MHz system which was experiencing coverage problems and other issues of concern, and the City had an older low band radio system that was also experiencing serious performance problems. He advised that following study of the two systems, a report was submitted to Council advising that it was in both the City's and the County's best interest to create a regional system; and in December 1997, Council authorized a regional intergovernmental agreement and further authorized the City Manager to enter into contracts to upgrade and ultimately obligate approximately \$6.8 million for capital costs associated with a regional project. He explained that the word "trunk" is defined as a computerized radio system composed of 23 frequencies, with one of the frequencies used as the control frequency for the other 22, and the 22 remaining frequencies allow various talk groups that are designed and programmed into the computerization of the system to talk on the same frequency without any time waiting or hesitation. He stated that today, a police officer in Roanoke City and an officer in Roanoke County, using similar radio equipment, can talk fluently with one another. He advised that the technology deals with two major issues that Council has repeatedly placed on high priority for the City's agenda; i. e.: improved customer service, both internally and externally, and regionalization as a means for improved efficiency and effectiveness. He stated that the proposal to be presented to Council is a regional approach via a jointly owned and operated system that serves operating departments in two different municipal operations, and the MHz system is the backbone for other regional concepts to be considered.

Joseph D. Slone, Director, Department of Technology, briefed Council Members on elements of the lap top computer to be placed in police vehicles by demonstrating developmental stages of the stand alone version of certain functions that are currently being explored.

Questions were raised with regard to the technology and its interaction with the dispatching function for fire and emergency medical services. In a follow-up

communication to Council by the City Manager dated October 5, 2001, she advised that the proposed amendments do not affect the dispatching function in any manner; as regional fire agreements become operational, the City's 9-1-1 Center will be dispatching Roanoke County and City of Salem fire and rescue units directly; City of Salem and Roanoke County fire stations are being equipped with MOSCAD radio equipment which will provide the same notification capabilities as City fire-ems stations; and using the MOSCAD radio equipment, City dispatchers will dispatch Salem and Roanoke County units into the City on calls for service. She further advised that currently, there is no need to have Roanoke County maps in the City's computer-aided dispatching system; the 9-1-1 Centers for each jurisdiction have the appropriate mapping and dispatching capability for calls within their respective territories; calls dispatched for Clearbrook and Salem No. 2 station into the City will be dispatched like all dispatches to all City fire-ems stations; a request for City apparatus to respond into Salem will be dispatched in the same manner as mutual aid requests are currently dispatched through a direct phone line from the Salem 9-1-1 Center to the City's dispatch center and the initial request will be received via a direct phone line call from the Salem 9-1-1 Center to Roanoke City. The City Manager advised that to insure that dispatching protocols are incorporated into the agreements, two dispatching supervisors were assigned to the original Transition Team to address and resolve any communication issues.

HOUSING/AUTHORITY: The City Manager introduced a briefing on housing issues in the City of Roanoke. She advised that there is a concern on the part of neighborhoods about the future, both in terms of the need to continue to stabilize neighborhoods that are already stable to insure that they do not fall into decline as they age, but also the need to bring stability to some of the deteriorating neighborhoods and to look at the current mix of housing in order to plan for a different housing mix in the future in response to the changing needs of the population. She stated that as a part of the 2001-02 budget process, a new department of housing and neighborhood services was created to give increased attention and focus to the entire issue of housing, and one of the primary objectives of the Assistant City Manager for Community Development is to evaluate housing issues within the City with the goal of moving the City toward a leadership role in coordination of housing resources.

Rolanda A. Johnson, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, presented an update on anticipated actions that will be presented to Council in the future. She advised that all citizens are entitled to live within standard housing and one can drive through any area of the City and identify housing in need of attention. She called attention to recent actions to revamp Community Development Block Grant program funds in order to give more attention to housing issues and to make

housing a priority for the City. She discussed certain opportunities and initiatives in housing, and referred to important plans and studies, specifically housing strategies, and the importance of receiving concurrence by Council before moving forward. She advised that the first plan is Vision 2000 which was an intensive process that involved citizens who reviewed housing initiatives, neighborhoods as villages, affordable housing, and neighborhood plans. She further advised that the Melrose Rugby Neighborhood Plan has been completed and plans are underway for neighborhood plans for Belmont/Fallon, Peters Creek North, Southern Hills, Old Southwest, Gainsboro, Downtown Roanoke and Gilmer. She explained that the 21st Century Challenge and the Fair Housing Study are other plans that will be addressed; the 21st Century Challenge report addressed housing inventory to insure the location of houses and vacant lots in various neighborhoods; and the Fair Housing Study will review various housing issues such as housing choice, diverse housing, and housing availability, with a goal to insure that there is an affordable and ample housing supply. She advised that the City has discussed housing issues with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and HUD has authorized the City to purchase two houses for \$1.00 which will be used in connection with a housing program in Roanoke's neighborhoods for police officers and school teachers; one house is located on Rorer Avenue, S. W., which is a two unit property that is proposed to be rehabilitated and offered for rent to police officers and/or school teachers that meet CDBG income guidelines; and the other house is located on Dale Avenue, S. E., and will be available for purchase. She explained that monies that were recently diverted from the CDBG program that were previously used to fund the salaries of building inspectors will be used to rehabilitate the properties; since CDBG funds are to be used, the City will have flexibility in financing options ranging from a grant, to a zero percentage loan, to a forgivable loan, and the City will work with local financial institutions to take advantage of certain financing programs that have not been utilized in the past. She advised that the City has been contacted by two groups: Design Competition and Christmas in April, with a request that the City identify certain neighborhoods to insure that housing design fits within a specific neighborhood. She stated that the City recently purchased a number of properties, thereby providing an opportunity to revitalize certain neighborhoods; and in different parts of the country, cities have selected specific pieces of property for neighborhood revitalization. She further stated that ten key pieces of property were acquired by the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, at a cost of approximately \$36,000.00, with the goal to either sell the property to a not for profit organization that has the capacity to rehabilitate the property or to private developers.

Ms. Johnson advised that City staff will be looking at those areas that have synergy, areas where other private and public entities are located in the neighborhood, areas that have a private and public funding stream, areas that are

visible with high traffic volume or main thoroughfares, and those neighborhoods that currently have an established neighborhood organization, to evaluate housing value and housing stock as well as mixed use potential. She stated that the above information will be provided to the Roanoke Neighborhood Partnership for the purpose of selecting one neighborhood to participate in the Housing Design Competition Group and Christmas in April programs to insure housing design. With regard to the sale of properties subject to delinquent taxes, she advised that the City is investigating a program which is currently implemented in the City of Richmond that requires a prequalification process to insure that individuals purchasing properties are not subject to outstanding property tax liens, weed liens, etc., and the program also requires submittal of a proposed use plan for the property.

In proposing targeted housing rehabilitation areas for next year, Ms. Johnson explained that there will be citizen and neighborhood involvement, with a portion of the City's CDBG funds designed to neighborhoods, and the City will continue to build neighborhood capacity to support the not for profit sector to encourage involvement in not only selection, but rehabilitation of housing stock.

With regard to the program designed to provide housing opportunities for police officers and school teachers, there was discussion in connection with offering the houses as two family dwellings, safety of the neighborhoods and whether the location of the houses will attract police officers and school teachers; development of housing by government versus private developers; fire fighters should be considered as another group of City employees to include in the abovereferenced housing program; spreading out target neighborhoods to provide a balance throughout the City; the City has to take a risk in order to encourage private developers to use private funds to invest in neighborhoods; considerable sums of money can be spent to improve a neighborhood, but the neighborhood will remain in its present form unless an educational component is included to teach responsibility to property owners/tenants; and upper end developers should be targeted by the City for housing development.

At 1:55 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess to be reconvened at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

At 2:00 p.m., on Monday, October 1, 2001, the regular meeting of City Council reconvened in the Roanoke City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with the following Council Members in attendance, Mayor Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members C. Nelson Harris, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William White, Sr., Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, and Mayor

Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; James D. Grisso, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The reconvened meeting was opened with a prayer by The Reverend James P. Beatty, Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Cave Spring.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

PRESENTATIONS:

PROCLAMATIONS-MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring September 30 - October 6, 2001, as Mental Illness Awareness Week in the City of Roanoke.

PROCLAMATIONS: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring the month of October, 2001, as United Against Hate Month in the City of Roanoke.

PROCLAMATIONS-FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring October 7 - 13, 2001, as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Roanoke.

PROCLAMATIONS-SCHOOLS: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring October 11, 2001, as Lights on Afterschool! Day in the City of Roanoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

INDUSTRIES-ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD-COUNCIL: A communication

from Mayor Ralph K. Smith requesting that Council convene in Closed Session to discuss personnel matters, specifically interviews for appointments to the Architectural Review Board and the Industrial Development Authority, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Harris moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in Closed Session to discuss personnel matters, specifically interviews for appointments to the Architectural Review Board and the Industrial Development Authority, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

EASEMENTS-NEWSPAPERS: A communication from the City Manager advising that pursuant to requirements of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the City of Roanoke is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed conveyance or vacation of property rights; whereupon, she requested that a public hearing be advertised with regard to abandonment of a permanent utility easement in connection with the Times World Corporation expansion project on Thursday, October 18, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in the Council Chamber, was before the body.

Mr. Harris moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to advertise a public hearing as abovereferenced on Thursday, October 18, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in the City Council Chamber. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

COUNCIL-LANDMARKS/HISTORIC PRESERVATION: A communication from Council Member C. Nelson Harris advising that over the course of many years, significant historic buildings have been lost in the central downtown area, including the Roanoke High School, Academy of Music, movie theaters, Terry Building, and some hotels to name a few, was before Council. He presented a proposal that a

plaque recognizing where the structures stood be installed in the sidewalks at the addresses of the former buildings; and the plaques would be simple, durable markers that could make a “historic trail” through downtown Roanoke and complement other historic and cultural amenities of this region of the City.

Mr. Harris stated that in order to move forward on the project, he has discussed the matter with the City Manager, Kent Chrisman, representing the Roanoke Valley Historical Society and Matt Kennell, representing Downtown Roanoke, Inc., who have agreed to be of assistance in forming a working group to solidify the concept for presentation and hopefully adoption by Council. He noted that once the buildings to be marked and the type of plaques to be installed have been identified, he will submit a more complete presentation to Council for consideration and approval; whereupon, he requested that \$25,000.00 be referred to the 2002-03 budget study for the proposed project.

Mr. Harris moved that Council concur in the request to forward \$25,000.00 to 2002-03 fiscal year budget study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

MUNICIPAL AUDITOR-OATHS OF OFFICE: The following report of qualification was before Council:

Troy Andrew Harmon as Acting Municipal Auditor, effective September 28, 2001, at 12:01 p.m.

Mr. Harris moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REGULAR AGENDA

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:

PARKS AND RECREATION: E. Duane Howard, 508-B Walnut Avenue, S. W., advised that the name Elmwood is approximately 170 years old and the estate became Elmwood when the area was known as Big Lick. He stated that just as citizens recognize historical Gainsboro as a part of the City's early history, likewise, the name of historic Elmwood Park should never be changed for any one, past, present or future, because to do so would diminish and dishonor the contributions of Roanoke's early settlers who once lived in the area. He referred to Council Member Harris' proposal to spend \$25,000.00 to place commemorative plaques throughout downtown Roanoke to recognize the location of many former buildings that are now appreciated for their contributions, growth and prosperity to early downtown. He also referred to the home that once stood on top of the hill and became known as Elmwood in about 1830 and later became the City's first library, and, to this day, Elmwood Park has remained the home of the City's main library. He stated that when the City purchased Elmwood in 1911, it became the third park in the City and led to the formation of the City's first five man parks department. He noted that the present Council can prevent a future Council from having to spend money to lay a plaque to remember Elmwood Park by realizing and appreciating that Council Member Harris' proposal deals with remembering history, names, places, and dates, and within that spirit, the name Elmwood should stand as a memorial to honor all of those persons who have come and gone, and by preserving its name, there will be no need for future generations to lay a plaque to remind citizens of the past. He encouraged Council to adopt a measure giving Elmwood Park the historic status that is so long overdue, thereby laying to rest any future attempt to alter the rich heritage that lies within downtown Roanoke. He advised that during former Mayor Noel C. Taylor's administration, the City spent \$750,000.00 on the renovation of Elmwood Park and the park was rededicated in 1985 under the leadership of Mrs. Robert W. Woody, the wife of a former Mayor of the City of Roanoke.

Ms. Brenda Hale, 3595 Parkwood Drive, S. W., advised that the name, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is a name that is recognized world wide. She stated that Dr. King was a man of peace and love, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, a civic rights champion, and a hero, and when she visits a new city and sees the name Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., imprinted on a library or a building or a street, she experiences a feeling of welcome as do many other African-Americans and persons of other races. She asked that Council look at the word "hate" and replace it with another four letter word, "love," and try to love and embrace the over 70 nations that are represented in the City of Roanoke. She stated that Dr. King led the war for equality, justice and non-violence, and he provided solutions for civil rights issues that all citizens enjoy in the form of the Civil Rights Act which made life better for all people. She added that Elmwood Park was recommended to honor Dr. King after long hours of laborious research, listening to discussions and a multitude of other excellent suggestions,

because the space honoring Dr. King's memory should be an area for the living which will provide a memorial where people can visit on a regular basis throughout the entire calendar year. She stated that if Roanoke is to move forward into the 21st century, it should add the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to its history which will impact the future of Roanoke and send a resounding message to the youth of the community.

Former Congressman James Olin, 175 27th Street, S. W., advised that a committee of 16 persons representing a cross section of the City of Roanoke worked for over a year on an appropriate recommendation to honor Dr. King's memory. He stated that the committee listened to ideas from numerous persons, and concluded that to rename Elmwood Park in honor of Dr. King was the appropriate action. He added that if Elmwood Park is named in Dr. King's honor, every year on the anniversary of his birth, Dr. King's name will receive attention and more people will benefit and learn from the teachings and achievements of this great American.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that all remarks would be received and filed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Ms. Bethel advised that her presentation would consist of a videotape regarding fire stations.

The Mayor inquired if the videotape will last more than five minutes; whereupon, Ms. Bethel responded that the videotape consists of approximately ten minutes. The Mayor advised that unless he was overruled by Council, the sound technician was instructed to stop the videotape at the end of five minutes.

At the conclusion of the first five minutes of the videotape, for the record, Mr. Bestpitch advised that Members of Council have previously viewed the videotape in its entirety.

Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that all is not well in the northwest section of the City of Roanoke. She stressed the importance of fire and emergency services to all neighborhoods in Roanoke City and Roanoke County; therefore, citizens are deeply concerned about the proposed closure of five fire stations, four of which are located in northwest Roanoke, i. e.: No. 12 - Salem Turnpike, No. 9 - 24th Street and Melrose Avenue, No. 5 - 12th Street and Loudon Avenue, No. 3 - Sixth Street and Rorer Avenue, and No. 1 - downtown Roanoke. She stated that many citizens believe that only one fire station is to be closed because the news media refers only to Fire Station No. 12. She added that when four fire stations in one section of the City are proposed to be closed, citizens are left without fire and

emergency medical services protection, citizens believe that the City's reported response time is not correct, and citizens are not in favor of taking tax dollars from the northwest section of the City. She stated that a community meeting should be held where citizens are permitted to ask questions and receive responses because many neighborhoods make up the community and information about proposed fire station closures should be available and given to as many citizens as possible, concurrently, so as to provide adequate public input. She stated that closing fire stations is a serious matter and citizens need to be provided with all of the facts.

Mr. Martin Jeffrey, 3912 Hyde Park Drive, S. W., Roanoke County, advised that there have been numerous lobbying groups who address Council under the Hearing of Citizens section of the City Council agenda and they receive ten minutes to make their presentations; therefore, it is not appropriate for business interests to receive ten minutes and for individual taxpayers to be limited to five minutes. He stated that there are two forces at work in the world today: good and evil; there is considerable discussion about eradicating hate when there should be talk about eradicating evil, and September 11 was an example of that kind of evil; however, evil takes place at the state and local levels every day in communities, families and neighborhoods. He advised that the question is: what will be done about evil when it manifests itself in government favoring one group over another, and favoring business interests over elderly citizens and taxpayers in northwest Roanoke who will be affected by major decisions. He stated that the citizens of Roanoke are entitled to see the videotape previously introduced by Ms. Bethel in its entirety. He added that Henry Street improvements, Burrell Nursing Home, Harrison Museum of African - American Culture, Gainsboro, and Fire Stations Nos. 1, 5, 9, and 12, individually and collectively, speak to who we are and what we can accomplish as a community, and when fire stations are reduced, along with staffing and equipment, the risks for citizens are automatically increased.

Mr. Bestpitch requested that the record reflect that Council has made a decision to terminate the lease for Fire Station No. 12; however, no decisions have been made regarding the closure of any other fire stations in the City.

Ms. Wyatt concurred in Mr. Bestpitch's statement, however, she stated that the proposed closure of additional fire stations is included in a written report from the Fire Chief.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that all remarks would be received and filed.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

BONDS/BOND ISSUES-SCHOOLS: A communication from George J. A. Clemo, Attorney, transmitting measures for VPSA Interest Rate Subsidy Bond Financing for Fairview Elementary School, in an amount not to exceed \$2,750,000.00, and Fishburn Park Elementary School, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.00, was before Council.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#35591-100101) A RESOLUTION authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$2,750,000 general obligation school bonds of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, Series 2001-A, to be sold to the Virginia Public School Authority and providing for the form and details thereof.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35591-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#35592-100101) A RESOLUTION authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$2,500,000 General Obligation School Bonds of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, Series 2001-B, to be sold to the Virginia Public School Authority and providing for the form and details thereof.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35592-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

COMMITTEES-HOUSING/AUTHORITY: The City Manager advised that shortly after the City began its update of the Comprehensive Plan, she was approached by representatives of the Fair Housing Board regarding the need for the City to address fair housing issues; therefore, an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan led to the retention of the services of a consultant to assist in preparation of a housing report. She introduced Brenda Powell, Chair, Fair Housing Board, to present the report.

On behalf of the Fair Housing Board, Ms. Powell presented copy of an "Analysis of the Impediments to Fair Housing in Roanoke, Virginia", prepared by Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., dated 2001. The following is the Executive Summary:

Housing is not simply shelter. Where people live makes a difference in the quality of their lives, what kind of schools their children will attend and the opportunities they will have, the kinds of jobs that will be open to them, and whether or not their housing investment grows. In a community in which there are no impediments to housing choice, everyone has equal access to the same kinds of housing, neighborhoods, amenities, limited only by what one can afford. Unfortunately, that kind of open housing market does not exist. As a result of past discrimination, structural constraints built into the system, and current discrimination, there are many barriers that limit housing choices for residents of the Roanoke metropolitan area.

Housing in Roanoke is highly segregated. 89.7% of the population of the metro area lives in census tracts that are either overwhelmingly white (more than 80%) or overwhelmingly black. Although the number of blacks living in Roanoke County increased between 1990 and 2000, the number increased by only 762. Vinton's African-American population grew by 16 African-Americans, and Salem's black population increased by only 421 people. The majority of the area's African-American (85.4%) live in the city, where poverty rates are the highest, while the counties remain predominantly white and middle-class.

Based on 1990 census data, the index of dissimilarity (a formula that measures the degree to which blacks and whites are evenly spread among neighborhoods) for the Roanoke metropolitan area was 72.9 %. Based on 2000 Census data the index of dissimilarity was 66.8%. Although there has been some improvement between 1990 and 2000, the numbers are still very high. The numbers indicate that in 2000, 66.8% of the members of one racial group would need to move to a different block group for the two groups to be evenly distributed. Roanoke had a higher index of dissimilarity at the census tract level than the following cities: the Washington, D. C. metro area (63.12%), the Norfolk/Virginia Beach/Newport News metro area (49.20%), the Richmond/Petersburg metro area (57.08%), Lynchburg (37.96%), Danville (34.59%), and Charlottesville (36.29%).

Housing choice should not stop at a county or city line. Yet the structure of government in the region (in which all jurisdictions are independent) has barred regional solutions to many problems that are regional in nature. This is as true for impediments to fair housing as for anything else. There is no regional commitment to fair housing, and no political incentive to encourage equal access. The limited amount of affordable housing and support services in the area surrounding the city ensures segregation by income and forces lower-income persons and those who need support services into the city. The lack of a regional transportation system substantially limits the housing choices of those who need or want to use public transportation.

There is substantial evidence of current illegal discrimination on the basis of race, disability, and the presence of children in the family. This discrimination occurs in virtually all forms of housing and housing-related activities. In addition, housing choices for persons with disabilities are greatly limited by the lack of accessible housing, and the concentration of group homes and congregate living facilities in a relatively few areas - almost all within the city.

Due to the close correlation between race and income, income-based barriers to housing choice fall most heavily on African- Americans, whether they must rely on assisted housing that is available only in certain neighborhoods, or cannot purchase homes because they do not have the funds available for downpayment or closing costs.

The City's (and non-profit groups') redevelopment activities are essential components of an effort to eliminate blight in neighborhoods that have suffered from past policies of segregation and a general lack of investment. However, the City has failed to ensure that redevelopment does not simply confirm historically segregated housing patterns, and has made choices about how it spends its CDBG funds that do little to address the city's needs for affordable housing.

This study recommends ways to overcome impediments to fair housing. Some of the recommendations involve a continuation or expansion of existing City policies; others represent new actions or directions:

- Acknowledge the need for regional cooperation to eliminate barriers to housing choice, and support the development of specific inter-jurisdictional cooperative mechanisms to make open housing a reality.**
- Provide fair housing training to housing providers to ensure compliance with the law; provide fair housing education to the community to help consumers identify and challenge housing discrimination.**
- Provide financial incentives to homebuyers to encourage pro-integrative moves.**
- Require affirmative marketing programs for all developments using City funds.**
- Encourage mixed-income and mixed-tenure (rental and homeownership) developments, especially when public funds are used.**
- Direct more CDBG money to housing programs, and consider spending money in targeted neighborhoods in an effort to increase home values there.**
- Support pre-purchase counseling and down payment assistance programs to improve home ownership opportunities for low- and moderate- income people.**
- Fund the construction of affordable retirement and assisted living communities.**

- **Increase funding for permanent supportive housing that includes drug treatment and mental health services.**
- **Encourage consideration of a regional housing authority.**
- **Fund the development of a mobility program for section 8 voucher holders.**
- **Map, gather, and market logical groupings of City-owned vacant lots to private developers for market rate housing.**
- **Make the City a national leader in the effort to increase housing accessibility; support the use of universal design features in all publicly-funded developments.**
- **The fair housing board should focus on strengthening the ways in which it assists Roanoke residents in gaining access to state administrative procedures**
- **Fund fair housing enforcement (including testing) to address discrimination in all forms of housing and housing-related activities.**

Ms. Powell presented the Board's vision for fair housing in the City of Roanoke, as reflected in Council's vision, to insure that all citizens of the City of Roanoke will have the opportunity to be important and respected by removing any and all barriers to housing choices. She stated that in order for citizens to enjoy a great quality of life, all participants must work as a team to insure that barriers to housing choices are eliminated, thus enhancing the economic health and wellbeing of the City. She presented the following recommendations of the Fair Housing Board:

(1) A request for financial assistance by the City to the Fair Housing Board to provide training for educational programs relating to fair housing.

(2) A request for legal assistance by the City Attorney's Office to draft a measure that will be applicable to the future of the Fair Housing Board.

(3) Initiation of a public forum in November, 2001 for review of the Fair Housing Study, with the goal of receiving citizen input on future

direction.

Ms. Powell advised that the Fair Housing Study will provide the impetus for the City of Roanoke to move forward and the Fair Housing Board will provide a progress report to Council during Fair Housing Month in April 2002. She requested that the City of Roanoke embrace the study and encourage all citizens to begin to build a better community where fair housing impediments will be eliminated and housing choices will be a way of life.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the briefing would be received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT-CITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS-EQUIPMENT-POLICE DEPARTMENT: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Council authorized an 800 MHz Regional Radio system and entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Roanoke County in December, 1997, for installation and maintenance of the system; the regional radio system was placed into use in 1999 for Public Safety and is now being used by other departments in the City; the initial agreement focused only on the system and the handheld/mobile units that supported the use of voice transmissions; since the initial agreement was approved in 1997, the City is upgrading its Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) in its public safety vehicles; Roanoke County is also purchasing MDTs for use in County vehicles; both localities are now utilizing the 800 MHz Trunking System, sharing common radio frequencies as approved by the FCC, for transmission of data to the MDTs; and the Intergovernmental Agreement needs to be amended to include use and maintenance of the units in the system.

It was further advised that changes requested to the contract provide for addition of the following items:

- S Inclusion of the MOSCAD fire alerting equipment used by the City of Roanoke;
- S Expansion of the mobile data equipment for use by both localities;
- S Designation of the County as the contracting agent for maintenance agreements for the equipment and as insurer of the equipment (reimbursed by the City);

S Change in the designation of the named system manager by the City and the County.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute an amendment to the existing Intergovernmental Agreement with Roanoke County to reflect use and maintenance of MDTs in the Regional 800 MHz Trunking Radio System to be approved by the City Attorney. She advised that a similar request will be submitted by staff of Roanoke County.

Mr. White offered the following emergency ordinance:

(#35593-100101) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement, dated December 17, 1997, with Roanoke County concerning the Regional 800 MHz Trunking Radio System, upon certain terms and conditions, and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64.)

Mr. White moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35593-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson.

Following question with regard to funding; i. e.: Roanoke City - \$4,020,969.00 and Roanoke County - \$881,949.00, the Assistant City Manager for Operations advised that the above referenced figures address a prior agreement and when the 800 MHz system was implemented, Roanoke County already had a substantial portion of its infrastructure in place, and it was necessary for the City to replace a considerable amount of its equipment.

The City Manager clarified that the figure does not represent an additional \$4 million, but the original contract with amendments, which is intended to add units that are proposed to be installed in police vehicles as previously presented to Council at its 12:15 p.m. session.

Ms. Wyatt raised questions with regard to the CAD systems for Roanoke City and Roanoke County which are not compatible because City computers do not contain maps of County streets and County computers do not contain maps of City streets, therefore, the only means of communication is via telephone or radio dispatch which appears to be a step back for City dispatch procedures. She inquired as to the cost of providing a dispatch system that works in tandem with Roanoke

County dispatch so that the two localities do not communicate via radio. She advised that the life blood of fire, police and emergency medical services is the dispatch center and as the City moves forward with new projects, be they police, fire, emergency medical services, or refuse collection, it is important to insure that there is no back tracking in terms of quality of service to Roanoke's citizens. She stated that it appears that the CAD systems are not equitable, and it is unfair to citizens and to dispatchers to place them in a position of using radios to dispatch emergency vehicles.

Upon suggestion by the Mayor, the Assistant City Manager for Operations advised that a staff briefing could be provided at a 2:00 p.m. Council session that would be beneficial to both the Council and to the public at large.

Mr. Bestpitch advised that this is a broad issue and many components need to be kept in mind as the process proceeds. He focused on the agreement with Roanoke County involving the Clearbrook Station and advised that that specific area of the City has been identified with clearly delineated boundaries of the City into which, on or about January 1, 2002, the Clearbrook Station will begin to provide initial response for fire and emergency medical service calls. By January 1, 2002, he inquired if Roanoke County's system will have the necessary data input in order to use a computer generated response as referenced by Ms. Wyatt for that specific area of the City.

The Assistant City Manager for Operations responded that this is the type of issue that the Transition Team will address and monthly updates will be provided to Council as the project unfolds.

Mr. Bestpitch requested a response to his question and to Ms. Wyatt's concern as a part of the November 2001 update by the Transition Team.

Ordinance No. 35593-100101 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD-COMMITTEES-ART ACQUISITION-SISTER CITIES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc. (RVSC) and the City of Roanoke have been working on the Sister Cities Sculpture for several years; Council approved the sculpture project in 1997, which is a seven piece linear sculpture representing each of the existing Sister

Cities; artists for the project were chosen from 28 competing artists in a state-wide competition in 1996; and after evaluating numerous sites, Century Square was selected as the most appropriate site for the public artwork since it is in close proximity to the Sister Cities flag display located at Friendship Fountain.

It was further advised that the Architectural Review Board must review and approve any alteration, reconstruction, or erection in an H-1 district and issue a Certificate of Appropriateness; Century Square is within an H-1 district, and on June 7, 2001, the Architectural Review Board approved the appropriateness of a conceptual site plan for improvements to Century Square to prepare the park as a site for the Sister Cities Sculpture, and approved installation of the sculpture; and in late spring, the Roanoke Arts Commission also approved the project, thus enabling the City to accept the gift.

It was explained that on September 4, Council approved \$78,000.00 in the Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Program to facilitate improvements to Century Square, including modification of the trellis, lighting, foundation for the artwork, tables and seating, and appropriated funds to Account No. 008-530-9779-9003; and Roanoke Valley Sister Cities will provide payment to the artists based on a fixed fee schedule for their work and provide funds to address the costs of appropriate signage.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to enter into an Agreement, the form of which shall be approved by the City Attorney, with Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc., and the artists for creation and installation of the Sister Cities sculpture to be installed in Century Square, and further recommended that Council accept the sculpture gift.

Mr. Carder offered the following emergency ordinance:

(#35594-100101) AN ORDINANCE authorizing execution of an Agreement among Roanoke Valley Sisters Cities, Inc. (RVSC), Donna Essig and Mimi Babe Harris (Artists) and the City of Roanoke relating to the construction of a work of art, the Sister Cities Sculpture, to be placed in a public space in Century Square; providing for certain improvements to be made by the City to Century Square, and accepting the donation of the Sisters Cities Sculpture; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35594-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-SEWERS AND STORM DRAINS-WATER RESOURCES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke was notified by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health on May 2, 2000, that due to possible surface water influence, Crystal Spring could not be used as a water supply until the water was treated for potential surface contaminants, which has caused a loss of three to four million gallons of water per day in the potable water supply of the City of Roanoke; a preliminary engineering study determined the most feasible method to treat Crystal Spring water was a membrane filtration system; and after proper advertising, four bids were received on Thursday, September 20, 2001, with Mid Eastern Builders, Inc., submitting the low bid in the amount of \$4,477,000.00.

It was further advised that City staff recommends using a construction administration specialty firm to monitor, inspect and administer the construction project; Construction Dynamics Group, Inc., (CDG) was selected to provide the services in accordance with standard procurement procedures; funding in the total amount of \$5,124,700.00 is needed for the project; \$200,000.00 will be allocated for the contract for construction administration services aboverreferenced; funding will be made available through issuance of Series 2002 General Obligation Public Improvement bond issue; and principal amount of \$31,245,000.00 with \$5,445,000.00 being allocated for the project, was authorized for issuance by Council at its August 6, 2001, meeting.

The City Manager recommended that Council take the following actions:

Accept the bid and authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for said work with Mid Eastern Builders, Inc., in the amount of \$4,477,000.00, with 365 consecutive calendar days of contract time, and reject all other bids received by the City.

Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Construction Dynamics Group, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00;

Appropriate in advance of issuance \$5,124,700.00 from the sale of Series 2002 bonds as follows: \$4,924,700.00 to an account to be established by the Director of Finance entitled, "Crystal Spring Water Treatment (Filtration) Plant Construction"; and \$200,000.00 to an account to be established by the Director of Finance entitled, "Crystal

Spring Water Treatment (Filtration) Plant Construction Administration Services”; and

Adopt a resolution declaring the City’s intent to reimburse itself \$5,124,700.00 from the proceeds of Series 2002 General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds.

Mr. Harris offered the following emergency ordinance:

(#35595-100101) AN ORDINANCE accepting the bid of Mid Eastern Builders, Inc., for the necessary building construction and equipment installation at the Crystal Spring Water Treatment (Filtration) Plant, upon certain terms and conditions and awarding a contract therefor; authorizing the proper City officials to execute the requisite contract for such work; rejecting all other bids made to the City for the work; and providing for an emergency.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35595-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#35596-100101) A RESOLUTION authorizing a contract with Construction Dynamics Group, Inc., for construction administration services and related work for the Crystal Springs Water Filtration Plant Project.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35596-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Carder offered the following emergency budget ordinance:

(#35597-100101) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2001-2002 Water Fund Appropriations, and providing for an emergency.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35597-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#35598-100101) A RESOLUTION declaring the City's intent to reimburse itself from the proceeds of its general obligation public improvement bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to Resolution No. 35489-080601, adopted August 6, 2001, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, enlargement and equipping of various public improvement projects of and for the City, which includes the building and equipping of the Crystal Spring Water Treatment (Filtration) Plant; and providing for an effective date.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35598-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-TELEPHONE COMPANIES-TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT:
The City Manager submitted a communication advising that in April 2000, the City Manager and U. S. Cellular entered into a contractual agreement that established a SAFE program in Roanoke, which program allows the Police Department to distribute

activated cell phones to at-risk victims of domestic violence, pending prosecution; cell phones allow domestic violence victims to immediately notify police of in-progress offenses and potential threats; U. S. Cellular requires annual renewal of the contract in order for the Police Department to maintain an inventory of 20 phones; and U. S. Cellular provides the phones and service at no cost to the City.

It was further advised that cell phones are distributed to at-risk domestic violence victims who would otherwise lack the ability to immediately alert police; improved police response times to imminent domestic violence threats is an effective deterrent and provides significant domestic violence victim safeguards because the cell phones have been described by victims as virtual lifelines; a release and *hold harmless* provision in the SAFE contract, paragraph 6, requires the City to release and hold harmless U. S. Cellular from any claims arising from the agreement; and the proposed SAFE contract is essentially the same as the SAFE contract entered into in April 2000.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to enter into a contract with U. S. Cellular for continued use of SAFE program cell phones and service for a period of one year.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#35599-100101) A RESOLUTION authorizing execution of an agreement between the City of Roanoke and U. S. Cellular, providing for use of cellular phones for the Stop Abuse From Existing (S.A.F.E.) Program.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35599-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-DOWNTOWN ROANOKE, INCORPORATED: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Roanoke Police Department Mounted Patrol Unit needs a utility building to store sawdust used in stall maintenance, and a mowing tractor that is utilized daily in the operation of the

Mounted Patrol Unit; sawdust is currently transported by tractor-trailer to the stables, then dumped onto the ground; sawdust is covered by a tarp, which allows moisture leading to mold and mildew; the Blue Ridge Masonry Association will donate labor and concrete block, in the amount of approximately \$6,000.00 for construction of the utility building, and The Roanoke Foundation for Downtown Inc. (“Foundation”) has secured donations in excess of \$9,000.00 to complete the building with flooring, roof, and electrical wiring; construction of the utility building will allow the Mounted Patrol Unit to store sawdust and maintain sawdust free of mold; the mounted patrol tractor is gas operated and could be a fire hazard that should be stored in a separate building away from the horses; and an agreement has been negotiated between the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Foundation for Downtown, Inc., to construct a utility building and donate the facility to the City for use in connection with the operation of the mounted patrol stable.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to enter into a contract with the Roanoke Foundation for Downtown, Inc., to provide for construction of a utility building at the Roanoke Center for Industry and Technology in furtherance of operation of the Mounted Patrol Unit, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney, and, upon completion of construction of the utility building, that she be authorized to accept donation of the structure on behalf of the City, pursuant to Section 2-263 of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979) as amended.

Mr. Hudson offered the following emergency ordinance:

(#35600-100101) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Roanoke Foundation for Downtown, Inc. (“Foundation”) for the construction by the Foundation of a utility building to further the operation of the Roanoke City Police Department Mounted Patrol Unit; authorizing the City Manager to accept, on behalf of the City pursuant to §2-263 of the Code of the City of Roanoke, from the Foundation the donation of the Facility once it is completed in accordance with the approved plans, upon certain terms and conditions, and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64.)

Mr. Hudson moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35600-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that a steering committee comprised of representatives of the major cultural organizations and local governments has been working to develop a Master Plan for Cultural Institutions of the Roanoke Valley; the Master Plan addresses the areas of education, funding, legislative, marketing, and transportation and infrastructure; the Master Plan illustrates how to better preserve, develop and improve the identity of the institutions, as well as how to promote transportation connections between the institutions; the Vision 2001 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Roanoke recommends support of the region's cultural institutions and recognizes that the health of the institutions directly affects the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Valley; and by working together through strategies developed in the Master Plan, the institutions can more effectively fulfill their missions and provide a positive impact on the entire Roanoke Valley.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a resolution in support of the Master Plan of the Cultural Institutions of the Roanoke Valley.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#35601-100101) A RESOLUTION supporting the Master Plan for the Cultural Institutions of the Roanoke Valley.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35601-100101. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, White, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE-AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the Financial Report for the City of Roanoke for the month of August, 2001.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the Financial Report

would be received and filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: None.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Council Member Wyatt inquired about the status of the City's Annual Affirmative Action report; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the report is presented on an annual basis and will be submitted to Council during the first quarter of the 2002 calendar year so as to provide data through calendar year 2001. She stated that it would be her goal to submit the report to Council in February 2002 and annually thereafter as previously requested by the Council.

As a part of the annual report, Ms. Wyatt requested information on the types of promotions within City departments, i. e.: male and female, new hires and internal promotions broken down into the categories of administrative, trades, managerial, professional and technical personnel.

MINORITY/WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION-PROCUREMENT CODE: Council Member White requested information with regard to the City's record of purchasing goods and services under \$15,000.00 from small/minority owned businesses.

AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS-MUNICIPAL AUDITOR-SCHOOLS: Mayor Smith inquired if an audit of the records and affairs of the Roanoke City School Board has been performed pursuant to Ordinance No. 35580-091701 adopted by Council on Monday, September 17, 2001; whereupon, the Acting Municipal Auditor advised that a meeting has been scheduled for some time within the next two weeks.

OTHER HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard; and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred, without objection by Council, for response, report and recommendation to Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Mr. Bob Caudle, 4231 Belford Street, S. W., read a prepared statement expressing opposition to the renaming of Elmwood Park to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. He advised that the history of Elmwood Park and the City of Roanoke should preclude the naming of the park after any individual or changing the name for any reason; and the name Elmwood Park has been used in the community for approximately 150 years, it predates the Civil War and preceeds the name of Roanoke. He stated that Elmwood Park is one of the most recognized areas in Roanoke, it is located in the center of the City and provides immediate name recognition as an event location. He added that to rename Elmwood Park in this manner will be very divisive to the community; and called attention to a section of Elmwood Park where a memorial is located to honor former Mayors, therefore, it would be inappropriate to overshadow the many accomplishments of these dedicated individuals who gave so many years of service by renaming Elmwood Park in honor of a person who had no direct contact with the City of Roanoke. He noted that the committee that submitted the recommendation was insensitive to the feelings of the vast majority of the citizens of Roanoke, they made their recommendation based on individual thoughts, and the committee did not arrive at the proper recommendation to honor Dr. King's memory.

COMPLAINTS-REFUSE COLLECTION: Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., addressed Council in regard to the solid waste collection program that was implemented by the City on July 1, 2001. She commended the City for adding additional residences where refuse collection will return to the alley; however, she expressed concern that affected citizens have not received appropriate notification from the City. She advised that notice changes should come from the City Manager, and something should be done, City-wide, to alleviate confusion. She requested that Council schedule a town meeting which will provide an opportunity for dialogue with citizens on recommendations that are to be implemented by the City.

COMPLAINTS-COUNCIL: Ms. Evelyn D. Bethel, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that her parents taught their children that living is a two way street; i. e.: if one wants respect, one must give respect; and as it relates to Council, she stated that if Council wants accountability, it must be accountable. She noted that citizens have appeared before Council and requested information but rarely, if ever, is Council accountable; therefore, she asked the question: what are citizens to do. She added that if Council wants to be treated in a courteous manner, Council must treat citizens in a courteous manner, and referred to secret meetings that have taken place throughout the City, but when information is revealed as a result of the meetings, no one wants to be held accountable. She stated that Council Members are elected to represent all citizens of the City of Roanoke because Council Members are elected at large; therefore, Council needs to be aware of what citizens are thinking, feeling, and wishing for their neighborhoods and their communities.

At 4:05 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess for three Closed Sessions.

At 5:50 p.m., the meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, with Mayor Smith presiding, and all Members of the Council in attendance, with the exception of Council Member White, who left the meeting during the Closed Session.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr. Bestpitch moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Harris, Hudson, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member White left the meeting during the Closed Session.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-INDUSTRIES: The Mayor advised that the terms of office of S. Deborah Oyler and William L. Bova as members of the Industrial Development Authority will expire on October 20, 2001, and called for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Harris placed in nomination the names of S. Deborah Oyler and William L. Bova.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Oyler and Mr. Bova were reappointed as members of the Industrial Development Authority, for terms ending October 20, 2005, by the following vote:

FOR MS. OYLER AND MR. BOVA: Council Members Harris, Hudson, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, and Mayor Smith-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member White was absent.)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the City Council meeting in recess at 5:55 p.m., to be reconvened on Wednesday, October 3, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., at Apple Ridge Farm, 9230 Pine Forest Road, N. E., Cooper Hill, Virginia, at which time Council will hold a planning retreat.

The regular meeting of Roanoke City Council reconvened on Wednesday, October 3, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in a Planning Retreat at Apple Ridge Farm, 9230 Pine Forest Road, Copper Hill, Virginia.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, C. Nelson Harris, William White, Sr., Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member W. Alvin Hudson, Jr.-----1.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; James D. Grisso; Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

OTHERS PRESENT: George C. Snead, Jr., Assistant City Manager for Operations; and Rolanda A. Johnson, Assistant City Manager for Community Development.

The meeting was facilitated by Lyle Sumek, Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc.

COUNCIL: The City Manager expressed appreciation to the Members of Council for taking time out of their busy schedules to engage in a planning retreat in order to discuss specific items that are important to the life of the City, to reassess how the City is performing as an organization, to discuss proposed improvements, and to engage in an exchange of ideas.

Mr. Sumek advised that 15 months ago, Council engaged in its first two day planning retreat, another work session was held in March 2001, and the purpose of today's retreat was to engage in a discussion as to whether Council's five year goals which were identified approximately 15 months ago are still valid, and, if not, what changes need to be made. He discussed the world situation and advised that times have changed because the September 11, 2001, terrorists attacks on America had a great impact on cities; some cities sent police and fire personnel to assist with the situation in New York City; military reservists are being called to active duty; neighborhoods and cities are pulling together at a time when people are looking for educational classes about personal safety; an economic downturn has occurred

where sales tax revenues are down as much as 15 - 20 per cent; some cities are reviewing their capital projects and preparing to bid in the spring of 2002 on major projects; and there could be potential citizen service reductions if revenues are not collected as anticipated.

Members of Council engaged in an exercise in which they identified various City accomplishments over the past 15 months, and also participated in an exercise in which each responded to the following questions: What is your vision for the City in three years? What are the City's major challenges? What are your short term goals for the City for the next six to nine months? What legacy do you want to leave behind?

At 12:15 p.m., the meeting was declared in recess for lunch.

At 1:15 p.m., the meeting reconvened and Mr. Sumek reviewed the following goals:

Healthy Local Economy

Quality Services

Working Together As A Team

Strong Neighborhoods

Vibrant Downtown

Enhanced Environmental Quality

Council Members engaged in an exercise pertaining to each goal and selected the top four objectives to be addressed over the next six to nine months, the four top objectives to be addressed short term, and the four most major objectives of the City.

There was considerable discussion with regard to improving the Council process in order to make Council meetings more productive; whereupon, it was the consensus of Council that the Mayor, Vice-Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk would serve as members of a committee to submit recommendations to the full Council on improving the process for conducting City Council meetings.

Mr. Bestpitch proposed appointment of an Urban Forestry Task Force to be charged with the responsibility of researching actions taken by other localities and

to identify areas in the City where urban forestry efforts should be addressed.

Following discussion, Mr. Bestpitch requested that he be permitted to engage in further dialogue with Council at a later date.

Inasmuch as Council had not completed all of the items on the agenda, it was the consensus of Council that the retreat would be continued until Friday, October 19, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. (Location to be announced.)

There being no further business, the meeting was declared in recess until Thursday, October 4, 2001, at 12:15 p.m., in Botetourt County at the Greenfield Education and Training Center, 57 South Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia, for the West-Central Virginia Coalition (formerly Roanoke Valley Regional Leadership Summit).

The regular meeting of the Roanoke City Council which convened on Monday, October 1, 2001, at 12:15 p.m., and was declared in recess until Wednesday, October 3, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., which meeting was further declared in recess until Thursday, October 4, 2001, reconvened at 12:15 p.m., in Botetourt County at the Greenfield Education and Training Center, 57 South Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----4.

ABSENT: Council Members William H. Carder, C. Nelson Harris, and William White, Sr.-----3.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; and Stephanie M. Moon, Deputy City Clerk.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the Fourth West-Central Virginia Coalition (formerly the Roanoke Valley Regional Leadership Summit), which meeting was hosted by Botetourt County.

On behalf of Botetourt County, William Loope, Vice-Chair, Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, extended greetings.

The Invocation was delivered by David Moorman, Assistant County Administrator, County of Botetourt.

Following lunch, the business session convened at 1:00 p.m.

Clay Goodman, Town Manager, Town of Vinton, advised that the West-Central Virginia Coalition Summit Subcommittee has held three meetings since the Coalition's meeting at Smith Mountain Lake; and the Summit Subcommittee has held two meetings at the Bedford County Administration Building to discuss expansion of the Coalition and development of a Legislative Program for the 2002 General Assembly Session.

Mr. Goodman further advised that the Coalition's Executive Subcommittee held a meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2001, at the Vinton War Memorial to discuss the establishment of a regional General Assembly lobbying effort, with representatives of the following local governments in attendance: City of Bedford, Bedford County, Botetourt County, Town of Christiansburg, Town of Clifton Forge, City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, and the Town of Vinton; and the following items are proposed to be included in the legislative program:

Education

Transportation
Local Government - Dillon Rule
Regional Competitiveness Program
Workforce Development

Mr. Goodman stated that it was recommended that a Local Government Coalition Legislative Program be enacted and adopted by the Executive Committee and the full Leadership Summit membership at its meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2001; the Coalition's Executive Subcommittee held a meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2001, at the Bedford County Administration Facility, and the following three legislative initiatives were recommended for immediate action:

Education Funding

State funding for education salary increases and associated benefits costs for Fiscal Year 2001-02, should be retroactive to July 1, 2001; and Virginia's Standards of Quality for public education should be revised to include the following:

**additional staffing positions;
facility construction and maintenance costs;
technology maintenance, upgrade and operation costs; and
debt service costs.**

Regional Competitiveness Program

Additional State funding is sought for the upcoming budget. The authorized language provided for the Virginia's Regional Competitiveness Program funds to be allocated on a per capita basis. An additional \$965,000.00 added to the appropriation will help to partially address earlier funding actions and restore funding allocation to an appropriate per capita share.

Transportation

Support extension of rail passenger service to the region; and support is needed at the federal, state and local government levels.

He further stated that the two remaining items, Work Force Development and relaxation of the Dillon Rule, would require additional study for possible inclusion in an updated legislative program.

In closing, Mr. Goodman advised that the Coalition recommends adoption of the three legislative initiatives for Education, Regional Competitiveness Program, and Transportation as the 2002 West-Central Virginia Local Government Legislative Program.

Dr. Harry Nickens, Member, of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, moved that the three legislative initiatives for Education, Regional Competitiveness Program, and Transportation be adopted as outlined for consideration. The motion was seconded by Jerry Burgess, Member of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and adopted.

Vice-Chair Loope distributed copy of regional cooperation highlights in Botetourt County for informational purposes.

Linda Wyatt, Member of Roanoke City Council, submitted the following draft resolution for adoption by the local governing bodies in support of state funding for brain injury services.

“WHEREAS, as many as 20,000 people across Southwest Virginia have an acquired brain injury, and

WHEREAS, brain injuries can cause a range of cognitive, physical, behavioral, and emotional impairments that place a tremendous burden on the survivors and their families, and

WHEREAS, services to brain injury survivors and their families, including socialization, behavioral and cognitive retraining, employment training, home modifications and assistive technology equipment, recreational, and transportation services, can increase survivors’ independence and quality of life, and

WHEREAS, in the Roanoke Valley, Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia helps brain injury survivors and their families gain access to these critical services, and develop greater self-sufficiency, and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of these critical services across the Commonwealth, and especially in Southwest Virginia,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Roanoke City Council supports the efforts of Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia to serve survivors of acquired brain injury and their families, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Roanoke City Council encourages the Virginia General Assembly to include financial support for providers of brain injury services in this region of the Commonwealth in the upcoming biennial budget.”

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting of Roanoke City Council adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

**Mary F. Parker
City Clerk**

**Ralph K. Smith
Mayor**